

North Levantine Arabic

<https://pwsmith.github.io/multivaluation/dbcoord/>

September 10, 2020

Cite as

Hartmann, Katharina, Anke Himmelreich, and Peter W. Smith (2020): Agreement Resolution in Coordination Structures in the World's Languages. Ms., Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main (url: <https://pwsmith.github.io/multivaluation/dbcoord/>)

1 Overview

Language family:	Afro-Asiatic (Semitic)
Countries:	Lebanon, Syria, Turkey
Number of speakers:	24.6 million
Agreement features:	gender, number, person
Attested word orders:	SV, VS
Coordination types:	and, or

2 Patterns for gender

2.1 Coordination with “and”

2.1.1 SV order

Pattern: Mismatches are resolved to masculine. (Note: Gender is not marked in 3rd person plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
	fem	masc
fem	fem	masc
masc	masc	masc

Examples:

- (1) a. el-rrijal w el-marra ʕam y-erkud-u
the-man and the-woman PROG 3.MASC-run-PL
‘The man and the woman are running.’
b. el-marra w el-rrijal ʕam y-erkud-u
the-woman and the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL
‘The woman and the man are running.’

2.1.2 VS order

Pattern: Mismatches are resolved to masculine. (Note: Gender is not marked in 3rd person plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
fem	fem	masc
masc	masc	masc

Examples:

- (2) a. ʕam y-erkud-u el-rrijal w el-marra
 PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-man and the-woman
 'The man and the woman are running.'
- b. ʕam y-erkud-u el-marra w el-rrijal
 PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-woman and the-man
 'The woman and the man are running.'

2.2 Coordination with “or”

2.2.1 SV order

Pattern: Mismatches are resolved to masculine. (Note: Gender is not marked in 3rd person plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
fem	fem	masc
masc	masc	masc

Examples:

- (3) a. el-rrijal ʔaw el-marra ʕam y-erkud-u
 the-man or the-woman PROG 3.MASC-run-PL
 'The man or the woman are running.'
- b. el-marra ʔaw el-rrijal ʕam y-erkud-u
 the-woman or the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL
 'The woman or the man are running.'

2.2.2 VS order

Pattern: Mismatches are resolved to masculine. (Note: Gender is not marked in 3rd person plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
fem	fem	masc
masc	masc	masc

Examples:

- (4) a. $\text{\textcircled{f}am}$ y-erkud-u el-rrijal $\text{\textcircled{f}aw}$ el-marra
 PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-man or the-woman
 ‘The man or the woman are running.’
 b. $\text{\textcircled{f}am}$ y-erkud-u el-marra $\text{\textcircled{f}aw}$ el-rrijal
 PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-woman or the-man
 ‘The woman or the man are running.’

3 Patterns for number

3.1 Coordination with “and”

3.1.1 SV order

Pattern: With two singular conjuncts, plural marking on the verb is fine, while singular marking is highly marked. If the two conjuncts mismatch in number, number is resolved to plural.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
	sg	pl
sg	pl/??sg	pl
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

- (5) $\text{el-ssabi w el-rrijal}$ $\text{\textcircled{f}am}$ $\text{y-erkud-u/??y-erkud}$
 the-boy and the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL/3.MASC-run
 ‘The boy and the man are running.’
 (6) a. $\text{el-ssabi w el-rrijaal}$ $\text{\textcircled{f}am}$ y-erkud-u
 the-boy and the-men PROG 3.MASC-run-PL
 ‘The boy and the men are running.’
 b. $\text{el-sseby-an w el-rrijal}$ $\text{\textcircled{f}am}$ y-erkud-u
 the-boy-PL and the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL
 ‘The boys and the man are running.’

3.1.2 VS order

Pattern: With two singular conjuncts, plural marking or singular marking on the verb is fine. If the two conjuncts mismatch in number, number is resolved to plural.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
	sg	pl
sg	pl/sg	pl
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

- (7) $\text{\textcircled{f}am}$ $\text{y-erkud-u/??y-erkud}$ $\text{el-ssabi w el-rrijal}$
 PROG 3.MASC-run-PL/3.MASC-run the-boy and the-man
 ‘The boy and the man are running.’
 (8) a. $\text{\textcircled{f}am}$ y-erkud-u $\text{el-ssabi w el-rrijaal}$
 PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-boy and the-men
 ‘The boy and the men are running.’

- b. ʕam y-erkud-u el-sseby-an w el-rrijal
 PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-boy-PL and the-man
 ‘The boys and the man are running.’

3.2 Coordination with “or”

3.2.1 SV order

Pattern: With two singular conjuncts, plural marking on the verb is fine, while singular marking is highly marked. If the two conjuncts mismatch in number, number is resolved to plural.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
sg	pl/??sg	pl
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

- (9) el-ssabi ʔaw el-rrijal ʕam y-erkud-u/??y-erkud
 the-boy or the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL/3.MASC-run
 ‘The boy or the man are running.’
- (10) a. el-ssabi ʔaw el-rrijaal ʕam y-erkud-u
 the-boy or the-men PROG 3.MASC-run-PL
 ‘The boy or the men are running.’
 b. el-sseby-an ʔaw el-rrijal ʕam y-erkud-u
 the-boy-PL or the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL
 ‘The boys or the man are running.’

3.2.2 VS order

Pattern: With two singular conjuncts, plural marking or singular marking on the verb is fine. If the two conjuncts mismatch in number, number is resolved to plural.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
sg	pl/sg	pl
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

- (11) ʕam y-erkud-u/??y-erkud el-ssabi ʔaw el-rrijal
 PROG 3.MASC-run-PL/3.MASC-run the-boy or the-man
 ‘The boy or the man are running.’
- (12) a. ʕam y-erkud-u el-ssabi ʔaw el-rrijaal
 PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-boy or the-men
 ‘The boy or the men are running.’
 b. ʕam y-erkud-u el-sseby-an ʔaw el-rrijal
 PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-boy-PL or the-man
 ‘The boys or the man are running.’

4 Patterns for person

4.1 Coordination with “and”

4.1.1 SV order

Pattern: Mismatching person is resolved following the hierarchy 1 > 2 > 3. (Number is resolved to plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl	1pl
2	1pl		2pl/??2sg
3	1pl	2pl	

Examples:

- (13) a. ana wa ?nta ʕam n-erkud
I and you.MASC PROG 1PL-run
‘I and you are running.’
- b. ?nta wa ana ʕam n-erkud
you.MASC and I PROG 1PL-run
‘You and I are running.’
- c. ana wa huwe ʕam n-erkud
I and he PROG 1PL-run
‘I and he are running.’
- d. huwe wa ana ʕam n-erkud
he and I PROG 1PL-run
‘He and I are running.’
- e. ?nta wa huwe ʕam t-erkud-u/??t-erkud
you.MASC and he PROG 2.MASC-run-PL/2.MASC-run
‘You and he are running.’
- f. huwe wa ?nta ʕam t-erkud-u
he and you.MASC PROG 2.MASC-run-PL
‘He and you are running.’

4.1.2 VS order

Pattern: Both closest conjunct agreement and resolved agreement (following the hierarchy 1 > 2 > 3) are possible.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl	1pl
2	1pl/2sg		2sg
3	1pl/3sg	2sg/3sg	

Examples:

- (14) a. ʕam n-erkud ana wa ?nta
PROG 1PL-run I and you.MASC
‘I and you are running.’

- b. ζ am n-erkud/t-erkud η nta wa ana
 PROG 1PL-run/2.MASC-run I and he
 ‘You and I are running.’
- c. ζ am n-erkud ana wa huwe
 PROG 1PL-run I and he
 ‘I and he are running.’
- d. ζ am n-erkud/y-erkud huwe wa ana
 PROG 1PL-run/3.MASC-run he and I
 ‘He and I are running.’
- e. ζ am t-erkud η nta wa huwe
 PROG 2.MASC-run you.MASC and he
 ‘You and he are running.’
- f. ζ am t-erkud/y-erkud huwe wa η nta
 PROG 2.MASC-run/3.MASC-run he and you.MASC
 ‘He and you are running.’

4.2 Coordination with “or”

4.2.1 SV order

Pattern: Mismatching person is resolved following the hierarchy 1 > 2 > 3. (Number is resolved to plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl/??2sg	1pl/??3sg
2	1pl		2pl/??2sg
3	1pl	2pl/2sg	

Examples:

- (15) a. ana η aw η nta ζ am n-erkud/??t-erkud
 I or you.MASC PROG 1PL-run/2.MASC-run
 ‘I or you are running.’
- b. η nta η aw ana ζ am n-erkud
 you.MASC or I PROG 1PL-run
 ‘You or I are running.’
- c. ana η aw huwe ζ am n-erkud/y-erkud
 I or he PROG 1PL-run/3.MASC-run
 ‘I or he are running.’
- d. huwe η aw ana ζ am n-erkud
 he or I PROG 1PL-run
 ‘He or I are running.’
- e. η nta η aw huwe ζ am t-erkud-u/t-erkud
 you.MASC or he PROG 2.MASC-run-PL/2.MASC-run
 ‘You or he are running.’
- f. huwe η aw η nta ζ am t-erkud-u/??t-erkud
 he or you.MASC PROG 2.MASC-run-PL//2.MASC-run
 ‘He or you are running.’

4.2.2 VS order

Pattern: You get closest conjunct agreement.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl	1pl
2	2sg		2sg
3	?1pl/3sg	3sg	

Examples:

- (16)
- ʕam n-erkud ana ?aw ?nta
 PROG 1PL-run I or you.MASC
 ‘I or you are running.’
 - ʕam t-erkud ?nta ?aw ana
 PROG 2.MASC-run you.MASC or I
 ‘You or I are running.’
 - ʕam n-erkud ana ?aw huwe
 PROG 1PL-run I or he
 ‘I or he are running.’
 - ʕam ?n-erkud/y-erkud huwe ?aw ana
 PROG 1PL-run/3.MASC-run he or I
 ‘He or I are running.’
 - ʕam t-erkud ?nta ?aw huwe
 PROG 2.MASC-run you.MASC or he
 ‘You or he are running.’
 - ʕam y-erkud huwe ?aw ?nta
 PROG 3.MASC-run he or you.MASC
 ‘He or you are running.’